

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BM

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL SOURCES OF NEWSPRINT

REF: A. STATE 153709

B. RANGOON 1904 (NOTAL)

1. AMERICAN PAPER INSTITUTE INFORMS DEPARTMENT THAT GREAT NORTHERN PAPER COMPANY, 75 PROSPECT STREET, STAMFORD, CONN. 06091 MIGHT HAVE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT SOME LIGHTER GRADES (28-30 POUNDS) OF GROUND WOOD PAPER. ROBERT HAHK IS PRESIDENT OF FIRM, CHARLES TIEDMANN IS MANAGER NEWSPRINT SALES.

2. COMMERCE NOTES THAT BATA COMPANY, P.O. BOX 3443, GREENWICH, CONN. 06830 MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO SUPPLY NEWSPRINT.

3. NEW YORK TIMES AUGUST 15 REPORTS DOMESTIC SUPPLY NEWSPRINT NOW TIGHT AND MAY GET TIGHTER. SITUATION ATTRIBUTED TO LACK OF CAPACITY TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND, TO HIGH DEMAND IN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES AND JAPAN, TO BAD

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WEATHER HINDERING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEASTERN U.S., IN

MAINE, AND IN CANADA, AND TO STRIKES IN CANADIAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY. NO US FIRMS NOW PLAN SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION NEWSPRINT PRODUCTION CAPACITY UNTIL PRICE RISES TO MORE PROFITABLE LEVEL. ALTHOUGH LARGE DAILY NEWSPAPERS

THAT OWN NEWSPRINT PLANTS DO NOT EXPECT CRISIS, SOME SMALLER NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MEASURES TO CONSERVE NEWSPRINT INVENTORIES, SUCH AS REDUCING NUMBER OF PAGES, AND NOT PUBLISHING ON SATURDAY. FORCED BY REDUCED PULP-WOOD INVENTORY TO CEASE 32 POUND NEWSPRINT PRODUCTION, GREAT NORTHERN OFFERING CUSTOMERS LIGHT WEIGHT (28-30 POUND) PAPER WHICH COSTS MORE, BUT GIVES MORE LINEAR FEET PER TON.

4. FYI: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK ALSO RECENTLY REQUESTED COMMERCE AID IN LOCATING NEWSPRINT SOURCES FOR THAILAND.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM HENNEPIN COMPANY. ROGERS

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